Erosion of Ganga Down-Stream of Farakka Barrage

*363. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI: SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe erosion of Ganga down-stream of Farakka Barrage;

(b) if so, what action has been taken to protect the damage caused by the erosion; and

(c) whether it is a fact' that fertile Indian land is being lost to Bangladesh, and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V.C. SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Erosion of varying magnitudes at same locations along river Ganga downstream of Farakka Barrage has been taking place from time to time. A plan listing the envisaged erosion protection works costing about Rs. 356 crores in the affected reaches has been prepared by the State Government.

(c) Due to erosion of right bank by Ganga some land on temporary basis is not available for use by India but there is no permanent loss of land to Bangladesh. The situation changes every year owing to meandering nature of the river.

Committee on Vcdic University

*364. DR. SHRIKANT RAMA-CHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee on Vedic University had been appointed by Government of the University Grants Commission:

(b) if so, what is the constitution of the committee;

(c) whether the Committee has since submitted its report; and

(d) if so, what action is being proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission had set up a Committee to examine the proposal of a Central Vedic University and to prepare a Feasibility Report.

The constitution of the Committee was as under:—

(1; Prof. V. Venkatachalam — Chairman

(2) Prof. Dr. Rama Ranjan Mukherjee — Member

(3) Shri. P.L. Sivaraman — Member

(4) Prof. P. Sriramachandrudu — Member

(5) Shri Y.D. Sharma — Member Secy.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Tirumala-Tirupati Deva-sthanam (TTD) who had initiated the suggestion of Vedic University at Tirupati has been asked to spell out its proposal in the light of the Report of the UGC Committee.

Supply of Machinery to Cooperative Sugar Factories

*365. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Business Standard, (Calcutta) dated the 24th October, 1992 to the effect that the National Cooperative Development Corporation has altered its rules to award the contracts to private manufacturers for supply of machinery to cooperative sugar factories;

(b) whether any enquiry has been instituted into the matter and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the concerned parties, if any?